Statement of Mandate 2015–2016

Office of Immigration

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Statement of Mandate

2015-2016

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Message from the Minister of Immigration and Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to present a Statement of Mandate for the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration for 2015-2016 that will make direct contributions to government's priorities for the coming year.

Immigration continues to be a key priority for addressing Nova Scotia's acute demographic challenge. This includes ensuring that the Province has a robust labour market and that the immigration system is aligned to attract and retain immigrants who wish to live, work, and stay in Nova Scotia. In 2015-2016, we look forward to advancing a number of key initiatives.

It is our role to ensure that the number of new immigrants to our province continues to grow and over the past year we have made significant progress. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration nominated 717 individuals for permanent residency and over 2,600 new people decided to make Nova Scotia home. This year we hope to nominate 1,050 individuals, the highest number of nominations ever. We will continue to work with the federal government and other partners to advocate for further increases in our provincial nomination allocations and to maximize all immigration pathways to Nova Scotia making our province the designation of choice for immigrants.

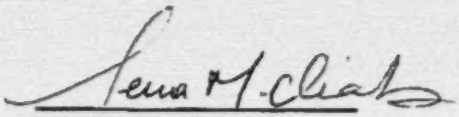
Our efforts in immigration require an active and engaged business community. Employers have a fundamental role to play to create growth in the economy that will attract people from around the world to our province. We will continue our direct engagement with employers and business leaders to build a shared understanding of immigration as a tool to meet labour market needs. We will continue to promote Nova Scotia as an immigration destination of choice – ensuring our recruitment activities are aligned with the economic needs of the province and the labour needs of business.

In addition to assisting employers who would welcome newcomers to fill vacant jobs, a new business immigration program will be launched in 2015-2016 to attract individuals who wish to acquire, start or purchase and actively manage a business in Nova Scotia. The proposed program will build on Canadian and international best practices in business immigration and be designed to encourage retention and support economic development and job creation in the province.

We will also continue to support an integrated approach to settlement services, allowing us to maximize settlement programming and resources, strengthen welcoming communities and ensure a delivery of an array of programs such as settlement orientation, language training, employment, and entrepreneurship.

In 2015-2016, the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, will launch an electronic processing system for the Nominee Program to replace the current paper-based application process. Our e-application process will utilize and build on existing government IT infrastructure and resources. This will allow for efficiencies in processing and enhance services and will position Nova Scotia for growth.

On behalf of all the staff at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, we look forward to working with you all in 2015-2016, as we build a Nova Scotia into a diverse, welcoming province for immigrants, grow our economy and increase our capacity to remain competitive in today's global landscape.



Lena Metlege Diab
Minister

Catherine Blewett
Chief Executive Officer

Office Mandate/Vision/Mission

Vision:

Our vision is a welcoming province that sees a greater numbers of immigrants each year and recognizes the important contributions they make to Nova Scotia.

Mission:

To attract, integrate and retain immigrants to the province by taking a lead role in engaging and working with partners to ensure Nova Scotia is well-positioned for growth.

Mandate:

In order to achieve the vision and mission, the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration will work to:

- Market the Province as an attractive immigration destination and promote all immigration pathways to Nova Scotia;
- Select immigrants through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program, who fulfil a labour market need and who will make a contribution to Nova Scotia's economy;
- Strengthen immigration and settlement planning, policy and programming in the Province in order to encourage integration and retention; and
- Promote welcoming communities, including raising awareness and understanding of immigration and diversity issues.

Within government, it is the function of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration to:

- Facilitate and promote a coordinated approach within the Government to immigration; and
- Develop advice and provide support to the Government in policy, planning, research and co-ordination in matters involving immigration and settlement.

Strategic Outcomes

The strategic outcomes of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration are listed below.

Attraction and Recruitment

Immigration attraction and recruitment activities address Nova Scotia's economic needs and labour market gaps. Priority activities include:

- In 2015, nominate the highest number of immigrants to date through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program.
- Launch new business immigration stream within the Nova Scotia Nominee Program to attract immigrants who want to acquire or establish a business.
- Raise awareness of immigration as a way to meet labour market needs. Work with partners in industry and community to promote all immigration pathways, with a particular focus on

international students and employers.

- Targeted recruitment of foreign nationals abroad and recent immigrants and secondary migrants nationally.
- Launch an online application system for the Nova Scotia Nominee Program to ensure faster, more efficient processing and service delivery.
- Implement on-going enhancements to external website.

Integration and Retention

Nova Scotia's immigration policies and settlement activities support immigrants and their families to successfully settle and integrate in their new community. Priority activities include:

- Strengthen all Nova Scotia Nominee Program streams with an economic lens that will assist in the retention of immigrants in Nova Scotia.
- Integrated approach to settlement services, leveraging existing resources, strengthening partnerships to maximize settlement programming and resources, and enhance welcoming communities throughout Nova Scotia.
- Develop and launch client tracking tool for settlement programming.

Leadership and Advocacy

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration is a leader and advocate for immigration policy, leveraging partners to advance priorities. Priority activities include:

- Build shared understanding of immigration with community and private sector stakeholders and influencers in order to advocate for change at national level.
- Target common messaging, coordinate approaches, and leverage our partnerships to achieve common Nova Scotia immigration goals, including supporting the work of the Premier's Advisory Council on Immigration and the One Nova Scotia Coalition, and other immigration partnerships province-wide.
- Work with other departments to develop and implement the Population Action Plan as well as advance a corporate approach to agreements with the federal government such as the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and Provincial Nominee Program Annex.

Government Priorities

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration is committed to advancing Government's priorities in the following ways:

Demographics

Goal: Increase net interprovincial in-migration and international immigration levels; enhance wellness & health initiatives; enhance workforce participation of youth, older workers, and marginalized communities; and enhance communities and social well-being.

The work of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration directly supports government's demographic priority by contributing to higher international immigration levels. This is achieved through provincial and national advocacy efforts to ensure Nova Scotia benefits from increased allocations. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration will continue to maximize all immigration pathways, to increase the number of immigrants to Nova Scotia and support the growth of our communities. International and secondary migration attraction and recruitment initiatives and selecting the highest number of immigrants to date through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration provides funding to settlement serving organizations to ensure immigrants have the skills necessary to participate in the workforce and to create conditions for successful integration.

Economy

Goal: Create climate for private sector and social enterprise economic growth to support OneNS economic goals

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration is aligning programs to support Nova Scotia's economic, demographic and labour market needs. The Nova Scotia Nominee Program Skilled Worker stream targets skilled workers for employers who are unable to fill their labour market needs. In addition, the Nova Scotia Demand: Express Entry (pilot) opens a pathway for immigrants with high human capital who have the ability to quickly attach to the labour market. Active employer engagement will ensure we are meeting employer skill demands as well as supporting global competitiveness. The launch of the new business immigration stream, will support economic growth by attracting immigrants who will acquire, establish or partner with a business in Nova Scotia.

Fiscal

Goal: Balanced budget during mandate and achieve sustainable government (2017-2018)

The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration continues to streamline internal processes and manage its budget in a fiscally responsible manner. For 2015-2016, Nova Scotia Office of Immigration's priority of an online application system will leverage government IT infrastructure by building on an existing electronic case management system, and utilize government human resource capacity via a partnership with Labour and Advanced Education and Service Nova Scotia.

Budget Context

Office of Immigration Budget Context Chart			
	Estimate 2014-15	**Forecast 2014-15**	**Estimate 2015-16**
	($ thousands)	($ thousands)	($ thousands)
Total Gross Office Expense			
	$7,725	$8,413	$9,090
Less: Chargeable to Other Departments	($137)	($1,558)	($1,600)
Net Expenses:	$7,588	$6,855	$7,490
Additional Information:			
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	27.5	21.7	27

Underspending in 2013-14 due to unfilled positions, less administrative dollars spent as well.

Performance Measurement

Attraction and Recruitment

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2015	Trends - Subsequent year data	Strategic Actions
Immigration activities address Nova Scotia's economic needs and labour market gaps	Number of new immigrant landings per calendar year.	2003: 1,474	2,750	2004: 1,771 2005: 1,929 2006: 2,586 2007: 2,523 2008: 2,651 2009: 2,424 2010: 2,408 2011: 2,138 2012: 2,342 2013: 2,529 2014: 2,661[1]	Launch a new business immigration stream within the Nova Scotia Nominee Program to attract prospective immigrants to acquire or establish a business Maximize all provincial and federal pathways to immigration by engaging with business, industry and labour to meet skill shortages. Enhance web-presence and web-based tools to make Nova Scotia more attractive globally to prospective immigrants. Target overseas recruitment efforts including French-speaking countries and international students already studying in Nova Scotia.

[1] Preliminary estimates, awaiting official figures from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Breakdown of Landings – Nominee Program Principal Applicants, Dependents vs Exclusively Federal Pathways											
Category / Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NSNP principal applicants	20	105	253	287	319	302	292	348	444	656	654
NSNP dependents	44	221	610	613	547	531	346	431	514	546	738
NSNP total	64	326	863	900	866	833	638	779	958	1,202	1,392
NSNP % of landings	*4%*	*17%*	*33%*	*36%*	*33%*	*34%*	*26%*	*36%*	*41%*	*47%*	*52%*
All federal	1,707	1,603	1,723	1,623	1,785	1,591	1,770	1,359	1,384	1,327	1,269
Federal % of landings	*96%*	*83%*	*67%*	*64%*	*67%*	*66%*	*74%*	*64%*	*59%*	*53%*	*48%*
GRAND TOTAL	1,771	1,929	2,586	2,523	2,651	2,424	2,408	2,138	2,342	2,529	2,661

Integration and Retention

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2015	Trends - Subsequent year data	Strategic Actions
Nova Scotia's immigration policies and settlement activities support immigrants and their families to successfully settle and integrate in their new community.	Percentage of all immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia in a five-year period remaining in the sixth year. This measure was originally created using a baseline of 37% from the 2001 national census. The figure rose to 63% by the 2006 census. However, the discontinuation of the long-form census in 2011 means it is no longer possible to track retention with census data. Similar calculations can be done using tax filer data available in the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)	2008 IMDB: 69%	70% or better retention rate.	2012[2] - 71%	Focus attracting immigrants with job offers or with skills to acquire a job in reasonable amount of time or match immigrant skills to labour market needs. Fund an integrated approach to settlement services to maximize settlement programming and resources to ensure successful settlement of immigrants, including to the Francophone community. Enhance welcoming communities to make Nova Scotia an open province.

[2] There is a two-year time lag in the availability of data from the IMDB, so the latest available data is for the 2012 tax year.

Leadership and Advocacy

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2015	Trends - Subsequent year data	Strategic Actions
Increase the number of annual provincial nominations.	Number of certificates issued annually per calendar year.	2003: 23	1,050	2004: 117 2005: 303 2006: 400 2007: 405 2008: 309 2009: 367 2010: 500 2011: 525 2012: 725 2013: 630 2014: 717	Develop shared understanding of immigration with stakeholders and influencers in order to advocate for a greater number of nominee certificates for Nova Scotia. Leverage our partnerships with key stakeholders such as Premier's Advisory Council on Immigration in order to achieve our common immigration goals for Nova Scotia.